

CHAPTER 10

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT

The Intergovernmental Coordination Element provides local governments an opportunity to inventory existing intergovernmental coordination mechanisms and processes with other local governments and governmental entities that can have profound impacts on the success of implementing the local government's comprehensive plan. The purpose of this element is to assess the adequacy and suitability of existing coordination mechanisms to serve the current and future needs of the community and articulate goals and formulate a strategy for effective implementation of community policies and objectives that, in many cases, involve multiple governmental entities.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS AND CONDITIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES AND PROGRAMS

The **Hart County** government has a county commission chair and four other elected commissioner who serve four-year terms. The county government sets and approves the budget for all departments and elected officials. The county government, under the supervision of the commissioners, sets the millage rate each year, which provides funds for the operation of the county departments. The day-to-day operations of the Hart County government are the responsibility of the county manager.

The **City of Bowersville** is governed by a mayor and four-person city council. All city council members serve on a part-time basis. The mayor supervises the city clerk and all city departments.

The **City of Hartwell** is governed by a mayor and six-person city council. All city council members serve on a part-time basis. The city government, under the supervision of the mayor and council, sets the millage rate each year, which provides funds for the operation of some of the city departments. The city also operate off of utility revenue. The city employs a city manager who supervises the city clerk and all city departments.

The **City of Royston** is governed by a mayor and six-person city council. All city council members serve on a part-time basis. The city employs a city manager who supervises the city clerk and all city departments.

The **Hart County Board of Education** serves the residents of Hart County and all cities. The school system currently operates five public schools and is the fiscal agent for the Hart County Head Start Program and the Pre-Kindergarten Program. The school system coordinates with Hart County in the use of its facilities for recreation and other public use and for other programs.

The **Hart County Industrial Building Authority**, created as a local Development Authority in accordance with Georgia state law, works to attract new industry and expand existing industry in the county and cities. Its seven members meet quarterly, or in called meetings as necessary, to report on projects, plan strategy, consider inducement resolutions for new industries, and to acquire and develop industrial buildings, industrial sites and industrial parks.

The **Hart County Chamber of Commerce** operates to promote and support business, civic, cultural and educational growth in the Hart County area.

Adjacent local governments include Franklin County to the west, Anderson County, South Carolina to the east and Elbert County to the south. Hart County is bordered on the north by the **State of South Carolina, Oconee County**.

Coordination with these local governments is essential to the planning, development and service delivery process. Hartwell and Hart County are members of the **Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center (GMRDC)**, which coordinates local and regional planning and development activities for all of the above counties with the exception of Madison County and those local governments in South Carolina. Elbert County is a member of the **Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center (NEGRDC)**. The two RDCs coordinate the review process for all developments that are at such a large scale they may have impacts beyond their jurisdictional boundaries (regional in nature) and may cause inter-jurisdictional conflicts. This review, titled **Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review** notifies all surrounding local governments and potential impacted agencies of the proposed development and allows them an opportunity to review the project (development) and provide comments about its potential impact on them. The RDC will then provide to the submitting local government comments and recommendation on the proposed project prior to the local government making a decision allowing the project to proceed or be denied.

OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The **Hart County Sheriff Department** is responsible for the police protection, service and safety of Hart County citizens. The department operates a patrol, investigations, jail and public and school education division as well as participating in a drug task force. The sheriff department may assist the County in the enforcement of its local regulations. The county office responds in the municipalities when needed, typically under emergency circumstances and the municipalities likewise reciprocate. The City of Hartwell operates its own law enforcement services through their police departments.

The **Hart County Marshall** serves criminal and civil papers for the Magistrate Court. The County Marshall assists other county officers and Sheriff officers when requested upon.

The **Clerk of Courts** is responsible for all the civil and criminal filings made in the **Hart County Superior Court**. It also serves as the official recorder of real estate documents for the County maintaining records of deeds, plats, etc. The Clerk also provides the jury pool for Grand Jury and civil and criminal trials.

The **Magistrate Judge** is an elected official in Hart County. The **Magistrate Court** office processes various criminal and civil matters and small claims up to \$15,000. The criminal section issues warrants, hold bonds, committal, dispossessory and first appearance hearings for certain offenses. The civil section issues notices of foreclosure, garnishments and Fi-FA's. The Magistrate Judge also performs marriages.

The **Judge of the Probate Court** is an elected official. The office is the custodian of vital records that allows the issuance of certified copies of birth and death certificates. The office maintains marriage records and copies of the legal organ. **The Probate Court** is responsible for the probate and administration of estates along with guardianships of minors and incapacitated adults. The court also handles misdemeanor traffic violations for the county. The Probate Judge also performs marriages.

The **Juvenile Court** handles all cases involving delinquent, unruly, and deprived children, as well as cases involving custody, child abuse, abortion notification, and termination of parental rights, and provides probation supervision of children on probation. Juvenile court also handles all traffic cases involving children under the age of 17, regardless of the jurisdiction of the incident.

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL AND REGIONAL ENTITIES AND PROGRAMS

The **Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens County** is a joint three county development authority, consisting of three members from each county, appointed by their County Commission, meets quarterly (no set meeting date) at alternating locations to plan and report on development activities in each county.

The **Hart-Franklin Airport Authority** is jointly funded and managed by Hart and Franklin Counties and is located near the City of Canon.

The **Hart County Chamber of Commerce** is active in the development of business, civic and educational interests in the Hart County area. Staff includes an Executive Director and volunteers. The Chamber is governed by a volunteer President and a Board of Directors representing businesses in the community.

The **Northern Judicial Circuit Court** serves five counties that include Franklin, Elbert, Hart, Madison, and Oglethorpe Counties. There is a joint agreement among the counties to fund the court services along with state funding.

A joint animal shelter and program, the **Northeast Georgia Animal Shelter**, is a multi-jurisdictional effort by Franklin County, Hart County, Franklin Springs, Lavonia and Royston.

The **Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center** provides land planning, transportation planning, historic preservation planning, water resource and water quality planning, economic development assistance, and grant assistance to the county and city. GMRDC has a regional plan and coordinates the review of local plans and developments of regional impact. The **Georgia Mountains Regional Economic Development Corporation** provides economic development and loan assistance to the city and county.

Electric power is distributed in Hart County by **Hart Electric Membership Corporation** with headquarters in Hartwell and **Georgia Power**.

Natural gas is provided by the City of Hartwell.

STATE AGENCIES, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The **Georgia Department of Community Affairs** provides a great deal of assistance to the county and city through its numerous programs. These programs include assistance in the areas of planning, housing, quality growth, downtown development and community development. Hart County is also a member of the Region 2 Regional Advisory Council.

The **Georgia Department of Transportation** operates a maintenance and engineering post for localized road maintenance and improvements. The department also does the local transportation planning for Hart County out of the District 1 Office located in Gainesville, Georgia.

The **Georgia Forestry Commission** operates a forestry county unit office outside Hartwell. The office provides a county ranger who provides leadership, service and education in protection, management, and wise use of local forest resources.

The **Georgia Department of Natural Resources** owns several recreation facilities within Hart County, including Hart State Park, Tugalo State Park and other important historic and archeological resources. The Environmental Protection Division of DNR regulates permits for drinking water, waste water, stormwater management.

Agricultural extension services are provided county-wide by the **University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service**. This program is funded jointly by Hart County and the State of Georgia.

The **Georgia Department of Human Resources** provides health services and mental health services through the Hart County Health Department and the Hart County Department of Mental Health. These two departments are funded by local, state and federal funds and grants.

The **Georgia Department of Family and Children Services** provides social and protective service assistance to needy families and children within the County. These services are funded by county, state and federal funds and grants.

FEDERAL AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** is a federal division of the U.S Department of Defense. The USCOE owns and manages the Lake Hartwell Reservoir and Lake Hartwell Dam. The Lake Hartwell Reservoir lies in Hart County on the eastern edge of the county and is shared with Franklin County, Stephens County and the State of South Carolina. The reservoir serves a number of purposes other than recreation, including flood control and power generation. The generating capacity at Hartwell Dam is 422,000 kilowatts of electricity. Hart County has lease agreement with the COE for the development and management of recreation facilities on the reservoir.

The **Appalachian Regional Commission** is a federal-state partnership that works with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life. The ARC program is administered at the state level by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Each year ARC provides funding for several hundred projects throughout the 13 Appalachian states in support of economic and human development. These efforts seek to augment ARC's highway development program and bring more of Appalachia's people into America's economic mainstream. The projects directly address ARC's five goal areas: education and workforce training, physical infrastructure, civic capacity and leadership, business development, and health care. In helping Appalachian states meet community needs in these five goal areas, ARC has supported a variety of innovative projects and initiatives. Each year throughout the Region ARC programs create thousands of new jobs, increase school readiness, improve local water and sewer systems, expand access to health care, assist local communities with strategic planning, and provide technical, managerial, and marketing assistance to emerging new businesses.

Hart County is one of 35 counties in North Georgia eligible for assistance and programs activities from ARC. It is imperative that goals, policies and objectives at the local level be consistent and applicable to the mission goals of the ARC. The goals, policies and objectives found in each element of this plan are all relevant to ARC policies.

The **U.S.D.A Natural Resource and Conservation Service** provides technical assistance on natural resources issues and assist individuals, groups, and communities within the county to implement soil and water conservation practices to protect the privately owned land in Hart County and its cities. This program is jointly funded by county and federal funds.

SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

In accordance with the Service Delivery Act (HB 489), the Hart County and City of Hartwell Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) was developed, submitted and approved in 1999. This state law requires that local governments and related entities cooperate with the delivery of community services. The SDS identifies local community services, assigns service areas and responsibilities (including funding), and provides a methodology for the delivery of community services that include a variety of implementation tools such as ordinances and contracts. The most recent update of the SDS was in 2004.

In accordance with the SDS law, a local government's existing Strategy must be updated concurrent with the local government's comprehensive plan. To ensure consistency between the comprehensive plan and SDS the services to be provided by the local governments, as identified in the comprehensive plan cannot exceed those identified in the SDS. And, there must be consistency between the comprehensive plan and the SDS.

The current SDS includes the following services:

- Airport
- Animal Shelter
- Board of Equalization
- Cemetery
- Chamber of Commerce
- City Court
- Clean and Beautiful
- Clerk of Court
- Coroner
- Downtown Development Authority
- E-911
- Elections
- Emergency Management
- Emergency Medical Service
- Extension Service
- Fire Protection
- Gas Service
- Industrial Development Authority
- Jail
- Jury
- Law Enforcement
- Library
- Magistrate Court
- Planning/Zoning
- Probate Court
- Public Defender (Indigent Defense)
- Public Health/Mental Health
- Public Housing
- Public Works
- Recreation
- Road Maintenance/Construction
- Senior Center
- Sewer Service
- Solid Waste Management
- Superior Court
- Tax Assessment/Collection
- Water Service.

All of these services are presented and discussed in other elements (Community Facilities and Services, Natural Resources, Historic and Cultural Resources, Transportation, Land Use) within the comprehensive plan.

The SDA also includes an agreement between Hart County and its cities to implement a process for resolving land use disputes over annexations. Under the agreement between the Cities and the County prior notification of annexation activities will be given to the County by the City providing full information on the proposed land use or zoning classification and area to be annexed. The county will respond to the City within 15 working days of its agreement or objection to the proposal. In the event of disagreement between the City and County, the dispute will go through the agreed upon mediation process.

To ensure compatible and non-conflicting land use Hart County and its cities provide land and water planning through ordinances for the following: Subdivision Regulations, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, Wetlands Protection, Floodplain Regulation, and through comprehensive planning. Expansion of water and sewer services and land use modifications must comply with these resolutions, ordinances, and the comprehensive plan.

There are additional departments or services identified in the SDS not addressed in this element, but are departments or units of local government, and are solely funded out of the county or city budget, are addressed and assessed in the community facilities element of this plan.

The SDS will need to be amended from time to time to reflect any change in services and funding as growth takes place in Hart County and in its cities.

ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS

- The current methodology for resolving land disputes within the county and for coordinating planning activities, via regional hearings for local planning and communication large scale developments, DRI reviews, works well for Hart County and its cities.
- A better method of communication and coordination needs to exist with jurisdictions in South Carolina.
- Even though the USCOE allows and encourages local governments such as Hart County to lease land and develop recreation facilities on its lakes, problems exist with the extended use of the property due to the lowering of lake levels in the late summer and fall. Better communication is needed between the COE and Hart County on the needs of their recreation facilities.
- The Hart County and the City of Hartwell's level of need with the Appalachian Regional Commission could become skewed by the higher income retirement population that is locating to the area. This is a population that does not work and does not contribute directly into the community. Looking below the surface there are several low and moderate income individual and families who are in need of training and jobs.
- As required by the minimum planning standards for this plan, the future land use for the city is discussed on property or areas that could potentially be annexed into the City. This does not mean that the City will undertake annexation of those lands. The uses should be consistent with future land uses identified by Hart County.
- Forecasted population and areas of future development for the City County, including department, to determined future levels of service should be coordinated with all water and sewer departments for permitting purposes and fire protection purposes, and with the Hart County Board of Education in their Five –Year Facilities Planning as required by the State BOE.
- Currently the Hart County Service Delivery Strategy, including Hartwell, for coordinating local government services and related program is functioning adequately. As the Cities or County or both governments move forward with land development regulations the strategy may need to be amended. It is not anticipated that the other services identified within the SDS will need to be amend during next ten years.

**COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF GOALS
POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES**

ELEMENT	TYPE OF STATEMENT PRIORITY	DESCRIPTION
Intergovt. Coordination	Goal	Resolve all land and services conflicts as prescribed in the Service Delivery Strategy.
Intergovt. Coordination	Goal	Establish a method of communication and coordination with the bordering counties in South Carolina.
Intergovt. Coordination	Policy	Work with COE to encourage extended summer pool lake levels for city recreation benefits.
Intergovt. Coordination	Policy	Encourage all planning, development and growth within the city to be coordinated, and opportunity with county departments and agencies to be afforded comments and input on growth should occur.
Intergovt. Coordination	Goal	Update the Service Delivery Strategy as needed and as growth occurs. Ensure that the SDA is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
Intergovt. Coordination	Goal	Revise and update existing programs and ordinances that will further protect important city and county resources.